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ponds. Denver's playground system is one of the best in the United States. In 1910 the Park Board, which has charge of the playgrounds, expended \$12,000 on their improvement, and during the coming year a still larger appropriation will be made. Denver has been forehanded in securing breathing spaces for its citizens while they were to be had at comparatively little cost. If all cities would thus anticipate their needs it would be well. There are few cities, however, which show so much civic pride. Denver decorates its principal streets at Christmas with evergreens, placing large wreaths pendent on its electroliers and cedar on its light standards. Furthermore, a Denver firm has recently made an effort to give agreeable aspect to the ordinary board fence which customarily incloses the lot upon which a structure is being erected. Instead of the board fence in this instance there is an artistic arcade, supporting a paled-in roof along which shrubs have been placed. Another evidence of progressive movement along the lines of civic improvement and privilege is the series of exhibitions which is being held in the gallery of the Public Library under the auspices of the Artists' Club. The December exhibition consisted of a collection of etchings lent by Keppel & Company of New York. This month a collection of water colors by members of the Philadelphia and Washington Water Color Clubs, which was assembled by the American Federation of Arts, is being shown.

**PRESERVATION
OF NATURAL
BEAUTY**

The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society was established a little over fifteen years ago. It aims to protect beautiful features of the natural landscape from disfigurement, to prevent the mutilation or destruction of historic landmarks, to promote the development of city parks, and to cultivate popular appreciation of the scenic beauties of America. During the past decade members of the Society have made personal gifts aggregating over two million dol-

lars for public parks, statues, tablets, and the restoration and preservation of historic buildings. It has been influential in securing large appropriations for State Parks and is the Custodian of five State Reservations, among which may be mentioned Stony Point Battlefield, Watkins Glen, and Letchworth Park. Large-ly, if not entirely, through its instru-mentalit y munificent gifts have been made to preserve the Palisades of the Hudson River and to establish what is now known as Palisade Park. It has taken a hand in the fight for Niagara and for the Hetch-Hetchy Valley pres-ervation, and has prevented not a few historic buildings from being destroyed, among them Fraunce's Tavern, New York. All this it does through the co-operation of its members and the gen-eral public, stirring interest by means of public meetings, university lectures and the press. If this is not directly within the field of art it is certainly not far without the boundary; for beauty is a large element in art and the conserva-tion of national individuality is essential to the development of a truly national art.

**PLASTIC
CLUB'S
EXHIBITION**

The Plastic Club, of Philadelphia, is a wide-awake association of women art workers, painters, sculptors, illustrators. It can boast not only attractive club rooms, but a well-lighted and comparatively spa-cious gallery. In this gallery in De-cember an interesting collection of origi-nal illustrations in color, pastel sketches, and drawings in black and white by members of the club was exhibited. The work of Elizabeth Shippen Green, one of the Club's most distinguished mem bers, was represented by large dramatic drawings illustrating a folk tale; fairies, wizards, midnight, forest depths, vividly depicted, told a weird and awesome story. Another of Miss Green's illustrations, "The Boy and the Flower," was in direct contrast, sunny, simple, and unimagina-tive. Jessie Wilcox Smith's dainty, beautiful, and spiritual transcription, "Mother," one of her best-known works,

elicited much admiration. Her "Summer's Passing" appealed to artists through its clever technique, and "Frills," a picture of a delightful little girl watering a fern, also attracted attention. Elizabeth Bonsall's studies of cats were most striking. None better portrays their characteristic grace and demure playfulness than she. Two pictures of children, well drawn and most pleasing, were shown by Harriet Roosevelt Richards, a Wilmington artist, whose illustrations in black and white are satisfactory in the extreme. Two other Wilmington illustrators, Ethel Pennewill Brown and Sarah K. Smith, were well represented. In the black and white section, however, honors were quite evenly divided. Charlotte Harding Brown showed two admirable drawings, increasing the strength of her technique by the use of a faint yellow shellac. Wuanita Smith showed charcoal drawings, colored, illustrating Greek life as seen during the past summer in the streets of Athens and Adelphi. Besides which two impressionistic canvases by E. Mandenhall Churchman set forth charming colorful scenes of laurel in bloom in native woods and lanes. In every respect the exhibition was eminently successful.

ART IN CALIFORNIA

More and more the Public Libraries are becoming art centers.

The Public Library at Long Beach, California, a city on the coast not far from Los Angeles, has an excellent picture gallery, lighted from above and well proportioned, in which series of exhibitions are successively set forth. During a year the following exhibitions were held: Loan exhibition of paintings by Southern California artists; the Art of London, photographs of paintings in the National Wallace and Tate Galleries; the Art of Paris, photographs of paintings in the Louvre and Luxembourg, decorations in the Pantheon, and great buildings; Dutch Art, photographs of paintings in the galleries of Antwerp, Amsterdam and the Hague; photographs of North American Indians by E. S.

Curtis; Joseph Pennell's etchings, lent by the St. Louis Art Museum, Japanese prints, and photographs of Italian architecture. The library itself is a handsome building and charmingly located. In San Francisco from time to time special exhibitions are being held of various painters' works. One of these recent exhibitions which attracted special attention was the annual show of the San Francisco Sketch Club. In this William Keith was represented by two landscapes.

NEWS ITEMS

Awards in the competition for designs and plans for three new Government buildings to be erected in Washington were announced on January 6th, as follows: Department of Commerce and Labor, York & Sawyer, honorable mention to Tracy, Swartwout & Litchfield, Max Friedlander and George B. Post and Sons; Department of State, Arnold W. Brunner, honorable mention to James Gamble Rogers, Warren & Wetmore, and Harold Magonigle; Department of Justice, Donn Barber, honorable mention to Cass Gilbert, Percy Griffin and Park, Thomas & Rice. Special commendation was unanimously given by the juries to the winning design by York & Sawyer.

Announcement is made by the Pan American Union of a competition for a statue of the late Brazilian Ambassador, Joaquim Nabuco, which is to be erected by public subscription in the Public Square at Pernambuco. The statue is to be of bronze and to stand on a granite pedestal ornamented by subsidiary groups allegorically commemorating events in the life of the late Ambassador. The competitors must submit drawings of the several parts of the monument and of the ensemble, together with a description and estimate of cost, the latter to include packing, transportation and insurance. These must reach the Central Commission at Pernambuco before March 31, 1911. The cost of the monument, including transportation, etc., can not exceed 120,000 francs. Prizes of two thousand and one thousand francs, respect-